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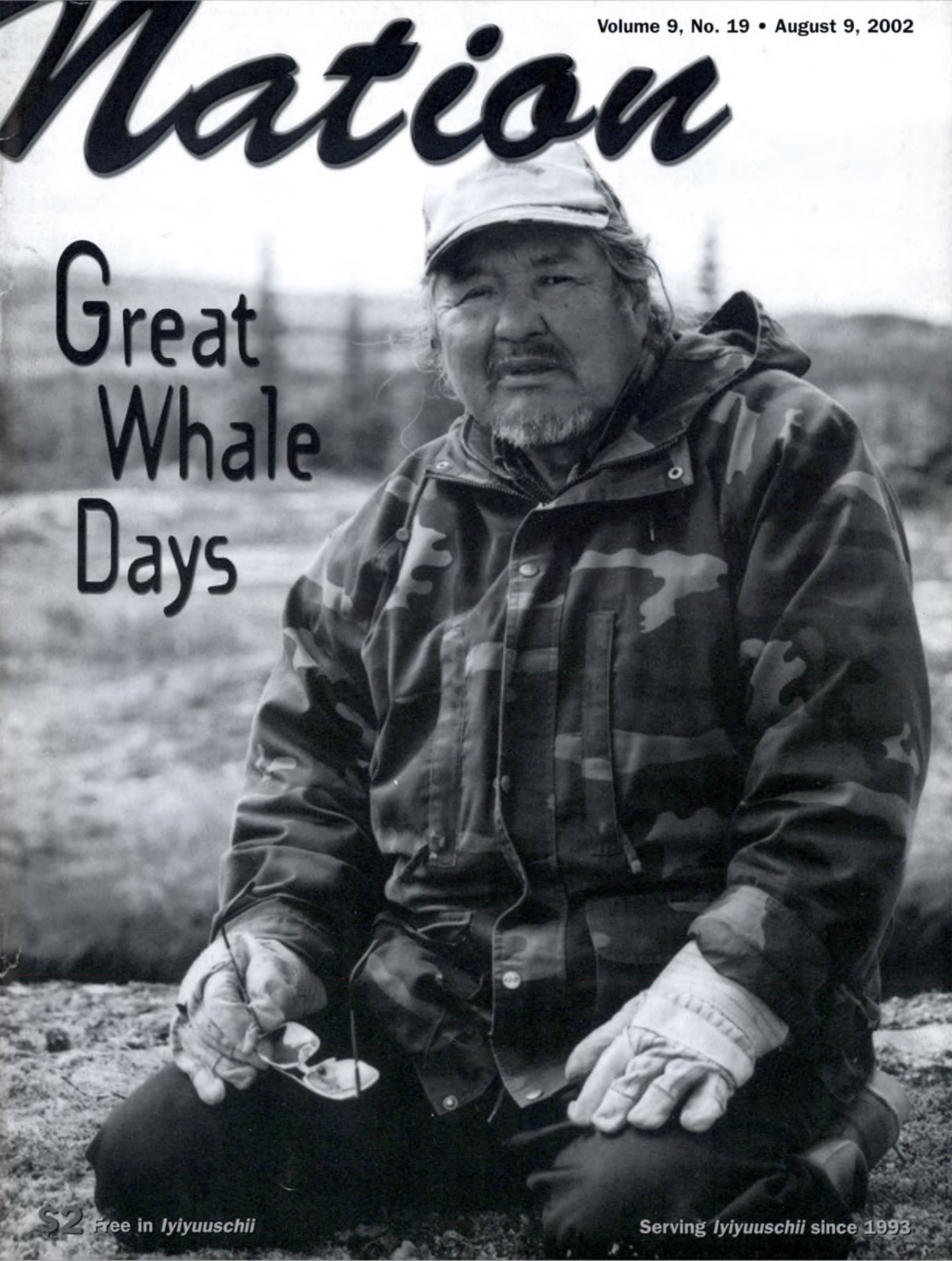
Nation

Great Whale Days



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A FEW REASONS TO VOTE

You'll notice something different about the Nation for this issue and the next. I will no longer be on the masthead as part of the editorial board.

The reason for this is simple. I have accepted a nomination for Deputy Grand Chief and feel it would not be right for me to cover an election that I am part of. This would be a conflict of interest and it isn't something that I would be comfortable with.

I have asked two reporters to cover the elections- Chris Pare and Lyle Stewart. I will still cover stories and write as long as they are non-political in nature.

On a non-partisan political nature I encourage everyone to go and vote no matter who you support. Listen to the candidates and pick the one you think best represents your needs and desires. I have noticed that in elections lately there has been low voter turnouts. I asked one friend if he had voted and he said no as he felt it wouldn't make any difference. I felt bad when I heard about this and thought about how important it was to vote. So I complied a small list of reasons why you should vote.

1. *Critical issues are at stake.* On August 28, we will elect people who will make decisions that affect our lives. They will make decisions that affect our health care, our jobs, our user fees, our public safety, our schools, our roads, our water and air, our economic growth and our quality of life. Your vote matters.

2. *Voting is power.* People who vote get their voices heard - and their needs met. In the United States the elderly vote more than any age group in the country and more than 35 per cent of the federal budget is spent on programs for the elderly. Your vote matters!

3. *Only by voting can you effect change.* In the federal elections the Cree vote was the difference between winning and losing. In April 1994, when South Africa held its first democratic election, 87 percent of the electorate went to the polls, some waiting in lines that wound for miles. Apartheid died that day.

4. *It is a right to be cherished.* Crees only received the opportunity to vote in federal and provincial elections in the late 1960s. We have, however, always been able to vote for our chiefs and in the 70s started to vote for new positions like the Grand Chief. It is not something that we should ever give up easily. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice for the right to vote. Among them: civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers, who were assassinated; Fannie Lou Hamer, who was beaten, lost her job and her house for insisting she had the right to vote in Mississippi; Vernon Dahmer, who died protecting his family and home because he allowed blacks to pay their poll tax at his store; and Andrew Goodman, Mickey Schwerner and James Chaney, who were murdered for helping blacks register in the South.

5. *Because it gives you the right to complain for the next three years.* If you didn't vote then why should you complain if things are going bad? If you voted then you can phone up those you voted for and ask why he or she haven't delivered on their promises.

If this hasn't convinced you then give me a call at the Nation: 514-272-3077.

By Will Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

William Kawapit Sr.
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Rez notes

NEIL DIAMOND & SONNY ORR

Gentlemen, start your engines 'cause the race is on

Ladies and gentlemen, sharpen your pencils and get ready to cast your valuable vote and choose your favourite contender for the race that can happen only twice a decade. Yup, candidates for the Grand Council of Eeyou Estchee have now been announced. For your information, I am not running nor voting due to an intense conflict of friendship and honour.

In the running for head honcho is the Dr. Ted Moses versus Matthew Mukash. As these two contenders meet head to head in their respective viewpoints on how the future of Eeyou Estchee should look, it will interest you to know that their interests are as far apart as one can possibly be.

As far as the run for Deputy is, all contenders have fair chance of taking votes in their favour, so this leg of the race will be very interesting. All candidates come from varied backgrounds and all are first time runners save for William Nicholls, famous editor of this great magazine. It will be a good race. I, for one, have decided not to run for anything since I already enjoy a certain notoriety from association with Rez Notes and the great magazine The Nation.

However, I am in a certain calamity as I have taken on the role as a campaign manager for one of the candidates and my counterpart, Ndiamon, has also taken on the job as campaign manager for another contender and he has thrown down his glove to me as official challenger, pitting our writing and promotional skills in a head to head match. This will be a very interesting experience, indeed. So, in all fairness, I will reserve half of this column to Ndiamon, so that he may have a say, until the time that the election results are in. Good luck, buddy!

****

Finally, the battle over what's left of Eeyou Estchee has begun. Those who've been following the past year's events surrounding the AIP aren't surprised the only two candidates for Grand Chief are Dr. Ted Moses and his Dr. Evil, so to speak, Matthew Mukash.

Stupidly, I thought for sure there would be the usual mad scramble for power Quebec's Crees are renowned for. Alas, it was not to be.

Where are the usual nominees of yore I wonder. That guy from Chisasibi, didn't he run the past four elections? The two Blacksmiths from Mistissini? I have a hunch many were nominated but few accepted. It's just too risky. You'd be running against the guy who brought home the $3.8 billion moose head. Or was it its heart?

If this election is anything like that farce of a referendum from a few months ago, we'll have Dr. Moses to kick around for another three years. Whoop de doo!

Seriously, nine different referendums with different questions with results released before another community had even voted. We're weak for having tolerated it and stupid for having applauded its result and we should all hang our heads in shame. Especially the ones responsible. Not one of our shining moments as democratic Crees. Kinda reminds you of Florida.

Anyway, it's early in the race to power and I'm not even sure when the vote is but it's only weeks away again. We haven't heard from the candidates yet save for Losty Mamainscum of GW and William Nicholls of Mistissini. We also heard from almost-ran-for- Grand Chief Donald Nicholls, brother of the above mentioned Nicholls.

With all respect, Losty doesn't give us much of a platform but his curriculum vitae so who know what his plans are at this point. Nicholls raises some important issues on leader accountability, Cree hiring and the poisoning of OJ land.

Donald Nicholls hints that he might have accepted his nomination for Grand Chief had he met the dealine. I tell you, the system's broke and we's gotta fix it.

A new development. The phone rang and it was candidate Alfred Loon in the nascent stage of his campaign. But we'll have to wait the next issue because we're about to go to press.

Chief Paul Gull's slowly and cautiously moving up by accepting his nomination for deputy. Cree lawyer and former chief of Mistissini Kenny Loon has also accepted a nomination for deputy.

But. But. None of this is official yet. The nomination deadline was over a week ago and we still haven't heard from the Grand Council so the information I have could be wrong. We have a fax with everyone's name but it's unofficial. Returning Officer John Henry Wapachee's waiting for word from his higher ups on how to proceed. What could be the problem I wonder.

Hey, that means the two candidates for Grand Chief could still change. The only fact we're sure about is that Losty Mamianscum and William Nicholls are in the race and , yes, I'm the campaign manager for William Nicholls and Sonnysie is working for Losty. What a mess we're in already.

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CHISASIBI YOUTH SAY THEY ARE LEFT OUT

A ten year wait for a youth centre in Chisasibi has ended in disappointment, leaving young Cree in the community asking how their Band Council managed to find the resources for a new office for themselves in less than a year.

The Cree community of Chisasibi is the largest of the nine nations with approximately 3100 people - 70 per cent of which fall into the 25 and under demographic. With the numbers to The local Youth Council would not be out of line in wondering why they have been asking for a youth centre for ten years to no avail.

Last Thursday, Chisasibi Youth Council Chief Ida Rednose, together with Stella Mastey Bearskin (Youth Development Director), and Jules Quachegan (former Youth Development Director), confronted the Band Council over funding that fell short. To add insult to injury, she also alleges that after less than one year, the band council has funds to build a new council office.

According to Rednose, the Band Council did not allocate the full amount that was requested for the contruction of a youth centre in Chisasibi. Ida was told at the meeting that there are presently four major projects on the table, leaving the community's youth with $2.5 million.

"That's not acceptable," said Rednose. "It's been over ten years since we've been trying to get our youth center and they're getting a new band office, which took them less than a year."

After the start of the James Bay Project, the people of Chisasibi were told the increased water flow from upstream river diversions would wash the island away. Construction began in 1978 and in 1980, and the community was relocated upstream on the south shore of the river.

This community has been the most negatively affected by the hydroelectric projects as the prime family hunting grounds have been flooded. Traditional hunting territories extended up the La Grande River watershed.

"Out of the James Bay community, we're one of the largest, and the youth population here is 70 per cent," she said. "We've been fighting for ten years, and we're the only [Cree] community without a youth center."

At their meeting last Thursday July 25 the Band Council would not provide the Youth Council with financial details regarding the funding. The $2.5 million they have now is only covers the cost of a gym with one office. The proposed youth centre is supposed to house a 250 seat theatre, a lounging room, a pool hall with an arcade, offices, a youth council office, a conference room, and offices for the Youth development Coordinator.

For young Cree growing up in Chisasibi, funding for the proposed youth centre has has always been elusive. Rednose says that the struggle is about more than just money.

"We don't have a political voice in the community, and that's what we want."

In her experience on past and present Youth Councils, a lack of communication has always stood between the elders and a growing youth population. That is why she has requested a special meeting between the two councils - the first ever between the respective bodies in Chisasibi.

"It's not like we're against the Band office being built, but why is it being built when it has been ten years that we have been asking for this money?"

The Band Council did not return calls regarding this issue.

by Chris Paré

Drug Raid in James Bay

Combined forces seem the way to go in war against narcotics in the James Bay area according to a press release from the Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui police. In what is being called the largest operation conducted by a combined force police seized $30,000 worth of narcotics from two rural camps. They also destroyed several hundred dollars worth of growing apparatus, cultivation equipment and chemical supplements.

This was the first time the Whapmagoostui police have participated in a combined forces operation with the Chisasibi police and the Radisson Surette du Quebec detachment.

While serving the general drug warrant police used a helicopter, four trucks and a boat.

The boat was used to land seven officers near the camps with the helicopter providing air support while back-up units were on stand-by in case of trouble. The ground team was lead by Chisasibi's Assistant Director of Police Larry Ross. The overall operation was under the direction of Corporal Michael Basque. The two cultivation areas had been confirmed before the raid took place.

Family of paraplegic fears police brutality

The Val D'Or newspaper *L'Echo* reports that the life of Maurice Mowatt is no longer in danger, as the father of two young girls recuperates in a Montreal hospital.

Mowatt was found July 19 unconscious with a body temperature of 26 degrees Celsius. The doctors say it's a miracle that he survived this level of hypothermia. He was operated on July 13 in Amos for his fractured vertebrae and then transferred to Montreal by plane the next day where he was operated on again.

But what happened to Maurice Mowatt on the morning of July 9? That's the question that the family is asking now. They fear it is a case of police brutality.

At about 6:30 am on July 9, two SQ policeman from Abitibi picked up a man of 32 years old lying on the pavement on Harricana Street in Amos. They gave him a contravention for being intoxicated in public. They then drove him to Tom-Rankin

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Troilus Division

Fax : (514) 521-8376 / (418) 748-3033
E-mail : troilus.rh@inmetmining.com

What is it with politics?

I wonder how many people out there are witnessing the questionable outcomes on recent contract awarding procedures on construction related work in the James Bay territory. I say questionable because a few contracts that had "Cree Contract" stamped all over them were recently awarded to non-Cree companies, who in turn, subcontracted some work to other non-Cree contractors and in one case, reserved a small portion to a Cree contractor. Now I'm an even more confused Cree!

I was under the impression that the whole reason for signing the deal with Quebec was to give Crees jobs. How is it then that this should happen? I would really like to know. How much value is attached to Cree jobs when assessing bids from contractors?

The other thing I would like to know is: When the excuse for not awarding a contract to a Cree company is because of a lack of experience, how do we expect that company to gain experience when we are the ones who do not provide them with such an opportunity? Here again, I thought that was why we signed.

We seem to be our own biggest barrier to employment. How can we expect to create or stimulate our own economy so that we may become masters in our land if we do not invest in our own people? Of course it is going to cost a bit more in the short term to award a contract to Cree companies! Like you said, they don't have the experience a long running non-Cree company has so they produce at a lower speed, which takes longer and costs more now. Yes! That is how it works.

It all depends on what you want to build. My question again: "Isn't that why we signed?" and wasn't that also why we held a big symposium in Val d'Or? To encourage the Cree companies to Joint Venture or Partner up with long standing non-Cree companies? So how did this happen? Any clues anyone? We seem to be spending our dollars outside our own economy.

If we let this continue to happen and we end up failing due to this, we would only have ourselves to blame. If the Cree are going to point fingers afterwards, then let it be on them.

Everywhere around us, we see the high dependency on the social support system. This will continue to rise due to our low graduation rates today and we will continue to produce our high unemployment trends. Given the growth of people joining the workforce as job seekers and the employment conditions today, what will be the cost tomorrow? How can we not invest now?

While Canada is looking to immigration again to respond to the shortage in labour supply, we seem to be busy shooting ourselves in the foot instead of creating competitive labour. Will we continue to be marginalized? Even worse, this time will we be the ones doing it to ourselves? Everyone seems to be talking about our "poor" children and how we need to provide a better future for them but it seems to me that when it comes to putting our money where our mouth is, we end up putting our collective foot in our mouth.

What is it with politics?

A stupefied Cree

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Street. Those facts have been verified by the family and by the SQ. What the family is wondering is why Mowatt was then found outside of his home on this cold and rainy morning with a fracture to the 4th vertebra. No marks were found on his body.

The family has hired the services of two lawyers – René Martineau and Jocelyn Geoffroy - who are doing their own investigation. If the lawyers investigation finds this a case of police brutality, they will bring a formal complaint to the police deontology department as well as a civil lawsuit. According to witnesses, the policemen took Maurice Mowatt out of their car in an uncivilized fashion; throwing him on the floor like a sack of potatoes and then fled the scene.

He was then found an hour later suffering from hypothermia with a broken spine. The conjecture is that something happened between the moment he was picked up and when they let him at his house.

The family wants to know why, if Mowatt had a broken spine, police didn't drive him to the hospital.

Quebec Public Security Minister Normand Jutras has also ordered an inquiry into the incident. The SQ received a complaint for "assault and battery" against the two SQ agents that picked up Mowatt that morning. Montreal Police will supervise the inquiry. Meanwhile the two SQ officers have been assigned to administrative duties during the length of the inquiry.

Algonquins and Quebec defuse logging crisis

The Algonquins of Barriere Lake and the Quebec government reached a deal two weeks ago to end the logging stand-off in Barriere Lake territory. The deal commits both partners to finish the development of an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the territory.

Logging on the territory has been suspended since the federal government walked away from the final stages of the Trilateral Agreement – a groundbreaking IRMP for the territory. Without an IRMP, the Algonquin traditional way of life, which is dependent on hunting and gathering, would face threat from industrial forestry operations. Chief Carol McBride says the deal with Quebec proves that joint harmonious collaboration is possible.

"The Trilateral Agreement was established to end conflict in the territory," said McBride. "It's a process based on dialogue and understanding. Our deal with Quebec shows that it is possible to reconcile the traditional needs of the Algonquin people with modern land management processes."

Earlier, angry log haulers from the Domtar Mill in Grand Remous had threatened to blockade the entrance to Barriere Lake reserve. They were angry over the impending shutdown of the mill as a result of the ongoing stand-off. Riot police from Montreal were reportedly moved into the region and Algonquin checkpoints were established at entrances to the community.

McBride says the Algonquins understood the frustration of the log haulers. "The community has been trying for over a year to find a way to move this process along. Although we remain upset that the federal government is refusing to honour its signed obligations in this agreement, we commend the willingness of Quebec to step in and prevent this situation from spiraling further out of control."

Over 20,000 attend NAIG opening ceremonies

The Opening Ceremony of the 2002 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Winnipeg saw some 20, 686 in attendance to take in the presentation of sports and culture.

The Sacred Fire that symbolizes the Spirit of the Games, Strong, Brave and True was lit at the Opening Ceremony with a prayer and then carried by foot to Spirit Island. The Sacred Fire burned at Spirit Island until the end of games.

Spirit Island, located at the Forks in downtown Winnipeg, was designated as a sacred place where everyone came to share and experience Aboriginal culture, and for healing ceremonies. Four First Nation and Metis youth carried the Sacred Fire two kilometres each and made four significant stops to honour the four directions through the city centre.

The ceremony also took time to honour the past by recognizing four distinct Tribal Journeys that replicated routes used by travelers long ago. As well, the 1967 Pan American torch bearers were invited and honored by carrying the NAIG council flag into the stadium and handed off to the Sergeant Tommy Prince Cadets to raise the flag for the games. The whole evening was broadcast live on the Aboriginal People's Television Network.

Tom Jackson sang his rendition of the national anthem with his hand drum, Ray St. Germain led the salute to the Metis nation and Susan Aglukark gave the grand finale performance with her song 'He Na Ho' that had the whole stadium celebrating the opening of the games.

About 6,000 athletes from aboriginal communites across Canada and the United States competed in the continent's biggest event of its kind. The North American Indigenous Games was first held in Edmonton in 1990. Since then, the number of athletes taking part has doubled.

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A Strange Thing Happens when you don't Advertise in the Nation...

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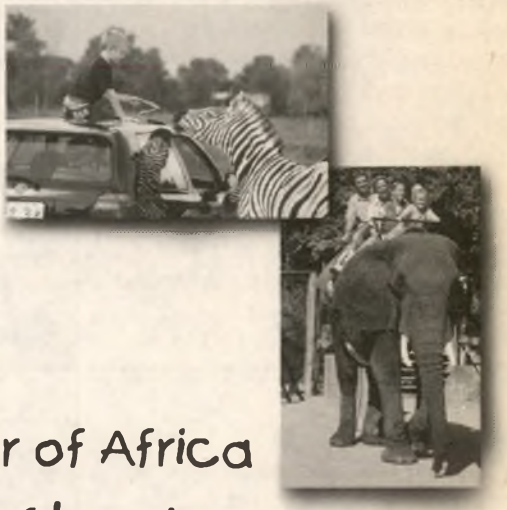

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Con't from page 7

One goal of the 11-day event is to give native youth a chance to experience international competition.

"We don't have that much on reserves, and when we do play, we play just against each other and maybe some other reserves," said basketball athlete Jaime Battist of Team Nova Scotia. "But the North American Indigenous Games gives us something to shoot for, something to want to play hard for and look forward to all year."

Winnipeg's Jason Loutitt, a rising star on the Canadian marathon circuit, ran faster than he has before. He says his race results are a source of pride for other aboriginal athletes.

"Hearing kids talk about me as I walk by, getting them to come up, not just the kids but the adults come up and shake my hand. It really inspires me," he said.

Some athletes say while the competitve spirit is strong, what's even stronger is the sense of community and sharing. "After the game you shake hands, you talk, you ask about your backgrounds and your experiences," said Carla Taylor of Team Manitoba. "And it's just been a very positive experience so far."

Two spirits converge in Alberta

The Alberta Two-Spirit community will welcome delegates to the 14th Annual Two-Spirit Gathering at a foothills location in southwestern Alberta Aug. 12-15. The gathering will take place at the Nakoda Lodge onthe Morley Indian Reservation near Calgary.

Organizers promise unparalleled Two-Spirit company and humor, great scenery, information and workshops, spiritual and cultural activities, and plenty of recreation and fun.

The Gathering is a non-alcohol and non-drug use event, and any infractions will not be tolerated. The Gathering is designed for Indigenous Two-Spirit men or women to join other Two-Spirited people in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

The Gathering for this year has been designed with some structure while allowing for flexibility so that delegates have much opportunity to meet and greet their brothers and sisters. As is customary, the sacred fire, sweatlodge, talking/healing circles, feast, powwow night, giveaway and the humourous no-talent show will form this year's Gathering as well. Organizers are structuring the event to include plenary speakers at the beginning of each day and then breaking off into smaller concurrent workshops for the remainder of the day. They expect each day tol end in closing sharing circles. There will also be meetings of interest i.e. Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and so on.

For more information, go to www.visions.ab.ca/activities/conferences+seminars/2_spirits_gathering.htm or contact Chief George Poitras Winston Thompson at (780) 715-6206 or (403) 228-0095. Email: chechit99@hotmail.com or wthompson@canparaplegic.org

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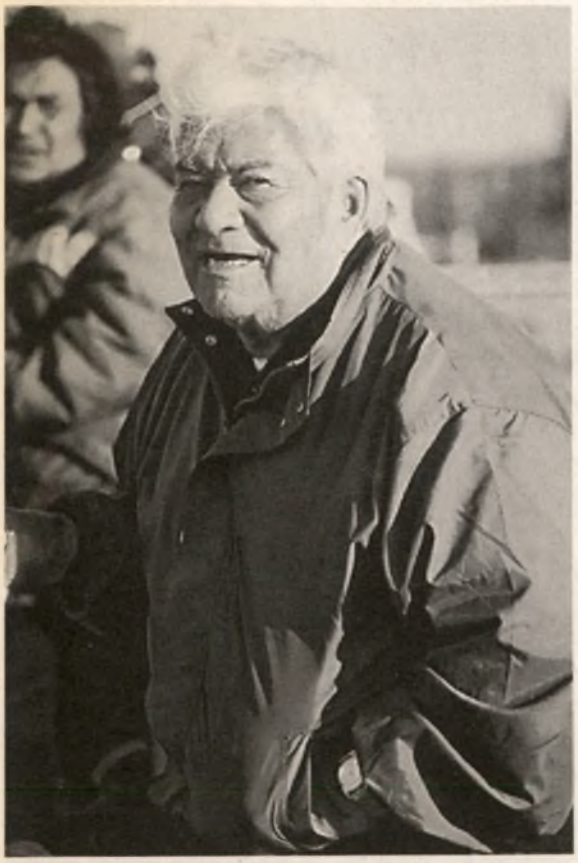
Elvis Has Crossed The River

-Neil Diamond-

Every July for the past ten years, the Cree side of Great Whale has transformed itself into a ghost town. Nearly everyone in town hops on their massive four wheeled scooters packed with everything but their washers and dryers, drive onto a Hudson's Bay Company freighter, cross the mighty Great Whale river, a stone's throw wide, and camp, feast and rejoice for a whole week. The teepees and tents go up, the fires are lit, and the geese hung over flames to cook. The camp site is like a scene out of an old Cowboy and Indians movie with the roaring motor bikes replacing ponies. There are games in the afternoon and singing and dancing at night until the elders, now cold, zoom off into the night. And the scene repeats itself the following day. Good times, good times.

Cree Elvis Presley impersonator, George Trapper of Pikogan closed nearly every show, even in the bitter rain. Thank yuh, thank yuh very much.



Ouje-Bougoumou's Jimmy Mianscum waiting for the evening's entertainment to begin.

A Kick-the-ball-the-farthest-in-a-sandtrap competitor flubs his turn. Could have used a pitching wedge.

Two traditional Throat Singer travelled from Puvirnituq to perform.

Potential Grand Chief Matthew Mukash waiting for the goose to cook and the coffee to brew

Mushkego Crees Verne Cheechoo and Lawrence Martin perform "let's Go Play Bingo," from their new CD.

Fans of George "Elvis" Trapper wait in the rain for his arrival. The King took to the stage driven by someone on a four-wheeler.

Election Round-up

By: Chris Paré

There is a Hopi prophecy that says, following the turn of this century, a Nation will be a rise from the North who bear the symbol of the goose.

The goose, of course, is sacred to the Cree. And in the North of Quebec, a public notice, issued July 29, has brought New Hope to an ancient prophecy. The Cree Grand Council will hold an election August 28, with the would-be Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief hot on the heels of an already remarkable millennium for the Cree.

Dr. Ted Moses is attempting to secure his second term in a row as Grand Chief, and his third time overall (his first tenure was from 1984-87). In 1999 Moses secured 45 per cent of the total votes cast, with Chief Kenny Loon trailing at 25 per cent. Mukash took 35 per cent of total vote, seating him next to Moses as Deputy. While those numbers seem disparate, it is only because in 1999 less than half the electorate bothered to vote. Since it is possible to become elected with as little as 30 per cent of the total votes, some candidates only share the support of as little as one in ten voters.

Who are your Grand Chief candidates?

Dr. Ted Moses

Matthew Mukash

Incumbent **Dr. Ted Moses** succeeded Matthew Coon Come as Grand Chief, and it is the current Deputy Chief, **Matthew Mukash**, who has now come to challenge Moses's leadership. Mukash was also the Chief of Whapmagoostui.

Their opposition to one another dates back to the agreement negotiated between Moses and Quebec Premier Bernard Landry last year. Even before committing to a deal with Quebec, the Grand Chief knew what would happen to his community if he accepted. "I knew that authorizing new hydroelectric developments on our land would tear our community apart," said Moses to *Maclean's* magazine last February. "I knew there would be opposition. I knew that would not make me popular with everyone. But I was convinced this represented the best opportunity for the majority of us."

Critics called the agreement a sellout, yet no one was more adamant than Matthew Mukash was in his opposition to the deal. Mukash, 51, is a political science graduate from Concordia University in Montreal.

Moses eventually won a 70 per cent approval rating from the bands he consulted before signing the deal with Landry. And though he fell short of reaching consensus on key issues, there is certainly no debate over the length of his resume. His distinctions include serving as an ambassador to the United Nations on behalf of the Grand Council of the Cree, two-time Grand Chief and Chairman of the Cree Regional Authority, and key player in the negotiation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The previous council, led by Moses, was reputed as a powerful group that fought forestry tooth-and-nail with everything from multimillion dollar lawsuits to calculated international PR campaigns.

Another issue facing Cree voters comes from Ottawa. The Assembly of First Nations in July introduced a new agenda for the indigenous population of Canada. Contentious issues like the First Nations Governance Act have presented new leadership challenges, and the success of any future government will depend not only upon how these challenges are met, but whether or not there is a forum for consensus – prophecy or not.

There are five nominees this year for Deputy-Grand Chief:

Alfred Loon, who works out of Montreal as an economic development officer with the Cree Regional Authority. Loon, who is from Mistissini, is also a Concordia alumnus (BA in Economics, 1993).

Losty Mamianskum (Whapmagoostui) is a grassroots advocate, and has served as a representative for the CRA, as well as an advisor to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. On the Cree Nation: "know what their concerns are because I lived through it."

At the time of the last election in 1999, **Paul Gull** had his hands full after being named Chief of the Waswanipi Band. At the time, the Waswanipi Nabatuk sawmill project had lost a considerable amount of money. Also, a forestry corporation, called Mishtuk, owed the Band $1 million in unpaid stumpage fees. Still, Gull goes into the election with experience, having previously managed the Grand Council's forestry file, which included its $500 million lawsuit against Quebec and Canada to halt clearcutting on Cree lands.

As of 1999, Waswanipi was experiencing 23 per cent unemployment rate in a community of 1,500. In his 1999 campaign, Gull vowed to take a strong stand against forestry.

Like Matthew Coon Come before him, **Kenny Loon** was elected Chief of Mistassini. In 1998, Hydro Quebec was still shopping around the Rupert-Eastmain project, which eventually would lead to the flooding

Relationship Between the Government of Quebec and the Crees of Quebec promises an eventual $3.5 billion injection into the Cree infrastructure over a 50-year period, though not all communities will be affected like Mistassini and Chisasibi.

Nation Editor **William Nicholls** offers a platform that has a familiar ring in a post-Enron world: Accountability. Transparency. Even in his last campaign for Deputy-Grand Chief, Nicholls was making some unpopular proposals. He suggested introducing rules on ethics and conflict-of-interest to help make Cree leaders more accountable; he opposed any deals with Hydro-Quebec, and advocated the need to address a growing youth population. Three years later, his platform is more refined, but the song remains the same: re-evaluate legal strategies to cut costs, bringing the Ouje-Bougoumou toxin crisis to the table, along with a call for responsible leadership and transparency in government. To seal the deal, he is even offering to donate 10 per cent of his salary to hockey and broomball in Eeyou Istchee.

An interview with Losty Mamianskum

Mention grassroots in any of the nine Cree communities, and those who know his story will tell you about Losty Mamianskum.

Grassroots defines more than a political platform – it also give one an idea of how far Mamianskum went before rising as a candidate to lead his people.

For Mamianskum, his understanding for the need to address social issues has more to do with experience than rhetoric: a recovered alcoholic, he drank for 14 years of his life. After working as a janitor and even stocking shelves for a living, he has experienced enough to know how people within his community can suffer.

Since then he has gone on to be a representative on the Grand Council of the Cree for two years, a board director for CRE, and the Quebec representative for an RCMP advisory committee on First Nations. Can Deputy-Grand Chief be next?

Nation: How did you decide to run?

Losty Mamianskum: A lot of soul-searching. I was asked and it came as a surprise, because I've never been one to seek out power and recognition. After some personal reflection, I decided that I owed it to the people who are nominating me to at least try.

What do you consider to be the issues facing the Cree Nation in this election?

Actually, I'm still working on my portfolio, but I would like to see the Cree Nation unified again. People want to be self-governing in the true sense, and people feel that hasn't happened yet. The Cree Nation has a governing structure in place, which is the Grand Council of the Crees, and it's administrated under the Cree Regional Authority. But not many people know how this structure works. I would also like to see the streamlining of existing institutions within the Cree Nation, and a move away from corporatization with more grassroots feedback going into the decision-making processes.

How should the Grand Council respond to the First Nations Governance Act?

I think what Indian Affairs is doing is trying to do is overhaul a colonialist law that is outdated; I'm not sure if it's relevant to our case. I think the Cree Act is basically the same, or similar to that of the Indian Act, in that it does not [reflect any] respect from the [federal and provincial] governments. We have moved beyond what was originally anticipated as a governance structure in the Cree Act, and so the Act itself has proven to be outdated.

As a leader of the Cree Nation, what are the communities' concerns?

Certainly social issues, as well as great concern for the environment. But I think that there are existing mechanisms that we can use to their full potential, such as the James Bay Agreement.

Understanding and Governance

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee) act as the central Cree political body. The council has 20 members: a Grand Chief and Deputy-Grand Chief, each of the chiefs from the nine Cree communities, and one other representative of each community.

The Council was formed in 1974 when Crees were negotiating with the Quebec and Canadian governments about our rights in face of the James Bay hydro-electric scheme, which had already been under construction since 1971. Back then, was no formal Cree political organization, except that they were members of the Indians of Quebec Association.

Members of the council also act as representatives for the Cree Regional Authority (CRA), which was created to act as the Cree regional government responsible for the administration of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The qualifications for eligibility to vote in the elections are as follows:

a) To be a Cree beneficiary in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement;

b) To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on August 28, 2002).

c) Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

The Will for Change!

William Nicholls for Deputy Grand Chief

Election Platform:

A Mentorship Program

We now have Cree graduates who are in some cases more educated than our consultants. This year alone, there are five Cree graduates who have received their Masters degrees. It is time that we gave them the acknowlegdement and opportunity they need to participate more fully and contribute to their own Nation by placing them with our consultants and advisors so that they can supplement their abilities with experience and eventually take key roles in our government and organizations.

Reevaluation of legal strategies and resources

Considering the fact we were about to pay out $7-9 million in legal fees this year without the AIP - we should take the time to invest this money into areas of greatest concern to our Nation and take some time to reevaluate our legal strategies and resources so as to optimize the use of this money in building a stronger Nation.

The Ouje-Bougoumou Crisis should be a part of negotiations

The Ouje-Bougoumou Crisis of toxins present in their food, water and persons, has the potential of affecting their children. This situation cries out for responsible development. No one is against economic development or jobs but lets not do it at the cost of our own people. This situation should not have taken a backseat to the negotiation of more economic development. Instead it should have been an indication that strong protections against future disasters and provisions for relief for the current situation need to take centre stage.

Ethics, conflicts of interest and accountability

This brings us to another point: Accountability. Many in the Cree Nation have talked about a code of ethics, guidelines, policies or procedures to ensure that those who make crucial decisions in our Nation do so with knowledge that they will be held accountable for their actions. Not every three years, but when they occur. This was requested in the past and never implemented. This is not foreign to political or business systems, in fact, it is a necessary protection to encourage responsible leadership and transparency of government.

Salaries

I feel that the salary levels are set too high for the size of the Nation and its needs. So, if I am elected as Deputy Grand Chief, 10 per cent of my salary will go towards minor hockey and broomball in Eeyou Istchee to be divided up by the regional team, the Cree Nation Bears, and the nine communities. The starting salary for Deputy Grand Chief is about $88,000.

The Grand Council will be there for you

The Grand Council will be at every community's annual general assembly to listen to your concerns and be available for you to give direction to the council on your community's needs. This will make us more accountable to the people and ensure that the Grand Council never loses touch with the people it is there to serve.

Paid for by the Elect William Nicholls Campaign Fund.

The A-to-Z of vanadium

McKenzie Bay mine at Lac Doré set to dig next summer

by Lyle Stewart

The long-rumoured vanadium mine at Lac Doré in the Ouje-Bougoumou region is taking shape. Brighton, Michigan-based McKenzie Bay International hopes to have a pilot project running by next summer and has issued a flurry of communiqués since the spring outlining the $364 million-project's progress, most recently announcing the engagement of a Montreal consulting firm to conduct an environmental impact study.

Entraco Inc. was named July 24 to undertake the study and secure the necessary permits to construct a mine, refinery and product manufacturing facilities 70 km southeast of Chibougamau, "thus minimizing any unanticipated environmental constraints."

Earlier, in June, McKenzie Bay announced that its wholly owned subsidiary, McKenzie Bay Resources, had entered into a partnership with a provincial mining firm to develop the project. Through SOQUEM Inc., a subsidiary of the Societe general de financement, provincial taxpayers will own 20 per cent of the mine. The two parties have a deadline of Aug. 31 to sign a Joint Venture Agreement. The move is a sign of the Quebec government's political interest in seeing the project through.

As then-Natural Resources Minister Jacques Brassard said in Chibougamau last summer, "We want to do our utmost to ensure that the Lac Doré vanadium deposit is put into production. If our efforts are successful, it will be ranked as one of the largest deposits in the world, with those in South Africa and Australia."

The partnership follows the completion of a feasibility study last April by SNC Lavalin. It indicated that the Lac Doré deposit is capable of producing large quantities of the purest vanadium on the planet. The Lac Doré site is vaunted as the biggest vanadium deposit in North America, and second-largest in the world. The feasibility study said the deposit is 16 km long with reserves of 80 million tonnes of vanadium electrolytes. Initial annual production is planned for a capacity of 63.5 million litres, and will see 300 people employed at the mine. The study said an open-pit mine 200 metres deep will eventually cover an area one kilometre wide and five kilometres long.

The company says the mine will be the lowest-cost producer in the world of high purity vanadium products. Its primary focus will be on producing vanadim for use in electricity storage technologies, especially the vanadium redox battery. Historically, vanadium has primarily been used as a steel alloy. More than 90 per cent of global vanadium production is currently used to toughen and strengthen carbon steels, tool steels and high-strength pipeline steels. Titanium-aluminum-vanadium alloys are also being used in the aerospace industry.

According to the SNC-Lavalin study, the mining history of the region "favors the social acceptability of the project." It isn't clear if the engineering company consulted any Ouje Crees.

It goes on to say that, "the receiving environment has a capacity for neutralizing

contaminants far superior to all other regions of Quebec. Moreover, vanadium has a moderate toxicity compared to other metals and its potential for bioaccumulation is very low. At the effluent level, the mitigation measures for the industrial process are apt to ensure its regulatory compliance."

The New Hampshire geologist Christopher Covel says the mine poses some complex issues, however, noting that vanadium is a probable carcinogen. But it's not so much the vanadium itself that worries him as the byproducts and active elements associated with it.

"You're taking stable rock, taking it out of the ground and creating more surface area," Covel notes. "That makes it unstable and releases elements into the environment."

The element that gives him the most concern is uranium, which is so closely associated with vanadium that it is has often been mined out of the same shafts. "So it's not so much what the vanadium will do but the waste byproducts," said Covel.

Indeed, the history of vanadium mining in the United States has been a sad one for the Navajo people of Arizona. Vanadium mining began in Navajo territory in the early 20th century. According to the Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (CARE) group, vanadium mines expanded greatly throughout their territory in the 1930s as steel production was ramped up for the anticipated war with Germany. But as World War II raged on in Europe and the Pacific in the 1940s, the uranium in the mines became highly sought after to aid the development of the atomic bomb.

Thus, Diné men were enlisted to support the war effort in the uranium/vanadium mines. Many suffered from radiation poisoning and died of cancer. The mill tailings remain highly radioactive and leached into groundwater, even though measures were taken to protect the tailings from rain runoff.

CARE points to one study that found cancer rates among Navajo teenagers living near mine tailings to be 17 times the U.S. national average. Elsewhere in the Navajo Nation, a large number of open-pit mines have been left untreated and have since filled with water that is consumed by wildlife and livestock.

CARE emphasizes the foreknowledge necessary to guard against environmental and health catastrophes: "The most important in all this history is simply this: Navajo people were never informed of the hazards to their health that the mines posed. Hundreds of Navajo men gave their lives for the American war effort without ever leaving home soil. At the same time, families were similarly exposed to the dangers of radiation."

The U.S. government did provide a compensation program for radiation victims of the Arizona uranium mines. But this spring President George W. Bush cut its funding while he increased subsidies to the uranium industry in the same region by $30 million.

The lessons would seem to be that governments can not be seen as neutral players in the game of competing interests between people who live in mineral-rich regions and the companies that exploit those riches, especially when those governments have so much at stake politically.

GCCEI/CRA Elections 2002

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PLATFORM:

- ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATION & YOUTH
- EFFECTIVE & RESPONSIVE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

August 28, 2002

WILL ON THE GRILL

by Will Nicholls

It's hot, it's humid and what's a poor boy to do. For myself I whip out the Best of the Best of Louisiana Cookbook and let my fingers do the walking. You can't go wrong with this book because I picture Louisiana to be hot and muggy and full of that raging Cajun cooking. Perfect for a day like this when I'm feeling a little ducky.

I figure on a day like this I might as well be on the stove or the BBQ but since it's so hot I got to whip something up. I believe this here recipe is called an Amaretto Freeze. It's quite simple. You take a half gallon of ice cream, toss in two thirds of a cup of Amaretto, half a cup of triple sec and half a cup of Crème du Cacao. Blend them in a food processor and chill. Pour or spoon yourself yourself a drink and your ready for some Cajun cooking.

Wild Duck Salad

6 wild teal ducks
Water to cover
4 stalks of celery
2 large onions, quartered
2 tablespoons of salt
1 teaspoon pepper
2 bay leaves
2 sprigs of parsley
1/2 cup chopped green onions
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup finely chopped chutney
Mayonnaise to desired consistency
Tabasco pepper sauce to taste

Place ducks in large pot and boil with first 7 ingredients. Simmer for 1 hour or until tender. Skin, debone and chop meat. Refrigerate.

When cold, mix with green onions, celery, mayonnaise, Tabasco pepper sauce and chutney.

May be served as a salad or with crackers as an hors d'oeuvre. Yield: 4 servings.

Wild Rice and Shrimp Salad with Curry Dressing

1 clove pressed garlic
4 tablespoons lemon juice
1 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
1/8 teaspoon oregano
1&1/2 teaspoon thyme
1 to 2 teaspoons curry powder, to taste
1/4 pound fresh mushrooms, washed and sliced
4 tablespoons olive oil
1 pound raw shrimp, peeled 1 cup unseasoned wild rice, cooked and cooled
5 hard cooked eggs, diced
Salt and pepper to taste
8 green onions with tops, finely chopped

Sauce mushrooms in olive oil until just soft.

Add raw shrimp, and saute for several minutes, until shrimp are just cooked. Remove from heat.

Place cooled rice in a large bowl, and add mushrooms, oil, and shrimp mixture. Add diced hard cooked eggs, and mix gently. Season with salt and pepper.

Mix together remaining ingredients. Pour a spoonful of this dressing into the rice-shrimp mixture, blend gently, and chill. Chill remaining dressing. Serve on a bed of crisp lettuce with the dressing in a separate bowl to pass. Serves 8 to 10.

Creole Crab Gumbo

1 cup diced green pepper
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 teaspoons salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 pound cooked crab meat
1 pound okra, cut up
1/2 cup sliced onion
4 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons flour
5 cups canned tomatoes

Saute onion in butter 10 minutes.

Stir in flour and brown.

Add crab meat and other ingredients plus 2 cups water. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, cover, simmer for 1 hour. Serves 6.

Barbequed Duck

BBQ Sauce:
1/2 cup leftover wine, lemon and butter to make marinade
1 medium clove garlic, pressed
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup finely chopped onion
1/8 teaspoon fresh ground pepper
1/8 teaspoon ginger

Place all barbeque sauce ingredients in a saucepan and simmer for fifteen minutes.

2(2 to 2 1/2-pound) ducks
1/2 pound butter
1/2 cup Burgundy wine
1/4 cup lemon juice

Cut whole ducks in half and place in pot with melted butter, wine, and lemon juice. Simmer ducks in marinade for 10 minutes and remove from heat. Keep covered for 1 hour turning every 15 minutes. Remove ducks from marinade and retain marinade. Salt and pepper both sides and place halves skin side down in large baking dish or dishes. Baste with barbecue sauce. Cover with foil and place in 375-degree oven for 45 minutes. Turn duck halves over, coat well with barbeque sauce. Cover and cook for additional 45 minutes. Lower heat to 300 degrees. Uncover and bake duck for additional 30 minutes, basting with sauce every 10 minutes.

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Cree School Board
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2001-2002 GRADUATES

Name	Community	Institution	Program
Blackned, Lois Mary	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Drug & Alcohol
Blacksmith, Phoebe	Mistissini	New England Culinary Institute	Culinary Arts
Bosum, Gloria	Ouje-bougoumou	Canadore College	Office Administration General
Brown, Tina	Eastmain	McGill University	Certificate in Human Resources
Coonishish, Evadney	Mistissini	Cambrian College	Native Child & Family Worker
Desjarlais, Alice	Albany	Portage College	Community Social Worker
Mattawashish, Emma	Mistissini	Canadore College	Office Systems
Moar, Mary Jane	Waskaganish	Northern College	Office Administration General
Peace, Florence	Wemindji	Canadore College	Social Service Worker
Quinn, Kimberly	Mistissini	McGill University	B. Ed.
Shem, Mary	Whapmagoostui	Simon Fraser University	Post B.A. Certificate in Communications
Wapachee, Janie E.	Nemaska	Heritage College	Office Systems Technology
Bear, Stacy	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal Studies
Bearskin, George	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Bearskin, Sylvia	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness
Bearskin-Chevrier, Marlene	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Baking Techniques
Blackned, Elizabeth	Waskaganish	Queen's University	A.T.E.P. Diploma in Education
Blacksmith, Edna	Mistissini	Concordia University	B.A. English & History
Blacksmith, Gloria	Mistissini	Dawson College	Social Science
Blacksmith, Hattie	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Blueboy, Diane	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S.
Blueboy, Roderick	Waskaganish	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Bordeleau, Catherine	Waswanipi	Centre integre en alimentation et tourisme	Cuisine d'établissement
Bosum, Gloria	Ouje-bougoumou	Algonquin College	Personal Support Worker
Chakapash, Cinderella	Wemindji	Canadore College	Office Systems
Chakapash, Patrick	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Chewanish, Gary	Chisasibi	Dawson College	Electronics Technology
Chilton, Deborah	M.F.	Sir Sandford Fleming College	Nursing
Coonishish-Coon, Maggie	Mistissini	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Coonishish, Shaun	Nemaska	Cegep John Abbott College	Police Technology
Cooper, Clara	Waswanipi	Cambrian College	Early Childhood Education
Cooper, Julie Ann	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	Enterprise Network Specialist
Coulombe, Steve	Waswanipi	C.S. de la Rivière-du-Nord	Mécanique Auto
Davey, Dwaine	M.F.	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness
Diamond, Candice	Waskaganish	Concordia University	Certificate in Adult Education
Diamond, Darryl	Waskaganish	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Media
Diamond, Jack	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Diamond, Rachel	Waswanipi	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Dixon, Bertha	Waswanipi	Laurentian University	Native Human Service B.S.W.
Dixon, Marlene	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Dixon, Patrick	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Dixon, Roger	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal Studies
Dixon-Ratté, Judy	Waswanipi	C.S. Rouyn-Noranda	Accounting
Esau (Blueboy), Natasha	Waskaganish	Northern College	G.A.S.
Esau, Charles	Waskaganish	Laurentian University	Native Human Service B.S.W.
George, Allen	Whapmagoostui	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Georgekish, Angus	Wemindji	Algonquin College	Systems Support
Georgekish, Bradley	Wemindji	Cegep John Abbott College	Police Technology
Georgekish, Roberta	Wemindji	Northern College	G.A.S.
Georgekish, Velma	Wemindji	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Gull, Eleanor	Waswanipi	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Gull, Jonathan	Waswanipi	École forestière de La Tuque	Aménagement de la Forêt
Gunner, Natasha	Mistissini	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Hester, Barbara	Waskaganish	Canadore College	G.A.S
Hester, Elizabeth	Waskaganish	Lakehead University	M.S.W.
Hester, Gilbert	Waskaganish	Canadore College	G.A.S
Hester, Michelle	Waskaganish	Canadore College	G.A.S
House, Lea	Chisasibi	Concordia University	B.F.A. Studio Art
Jackson, Elizabeth	Waswanipi	Carleton University	B.A. Economics
Jackson, Janet	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal Certificate
Jackson, Monique	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Indigenous Wellness
Jackson-Clement, Jessica	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal Studies
Kapashesit, Stan	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Hotel & Restaurant Admin.
Kitchen, Abel	Waswanipi	Laurentian University	Native Human Service B.S.W.
Kitty, Darlene	Chisasibi	University of Ottawa	Medical Doctor
Labrecque-Saganash, Stephanie	Waswanipi	Stanstead College	Grade 12
Lameboy, Elizabeth	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Baking Techniques
Linklater, Melissa Jane	Wemindji	Northern College	Practical Nurse
Longchap, Christine	Mistissini	Cegep Heritage	Office Systems Technology
Loon, Nathan John	Mistissini	Algonquin College	Law Clerk

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Cree School Board
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2001-2002 GRADUATES

Name	Community	Institution	Program
Loon - Diamond, Gretta	Mistissini	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Louttit, Marci	Wemindji	Nu-Wave School of Hair Design	Hairdressing
Louttit, Nikki	Wemindji	Lakehead University	B.A. Psychology
Louttit, Shannon	Wemindji	Sault College	Office Administration
MacLeod, Elaine	Mistissini	Humber College	Business Administration
MacLeod, Emmett	Mistissini	Algonquin College	Construction Eng. Technician
MacLeod, Mary	Mistissini	Carleton University	B.A. Canadian Studies
Mamianskum, Losty	Whapmagoostui	Carleton University	M.A. Law
Mark, Geraldine	Wemindji	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Martin, Cherubine	Chisasibi	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Martin, Robert	Waswanipi	Canadore College	G.A.S. Computer Systems & Networking Tech.
Matthew, Johnny	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Marine & Small Engines
McLeod, Clinton	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Culinary Management
McLeod, Judy	Waskaganish	Laurentian University	B.Sc. Nursing (Post R.N.)
Metabie, Colleen	Mistissini	La Cite Collegiale	Gestion alimentaire et hotelerie
Mistacheesick, Thomas	Wemindji	Cambrian College	Carpentry Technologist
Moar, Angela	Waskaganish	Cambrian College	Pastry Chef, Hotel & Rest. Management
Moar, Shirley	Waskaganish	Northern College	Office Administration General
Moar, Wesseskahn	Nemaska	Ecole Secondaire Wilbrod-Bherer	Mécanique Auto
Moore Shecapio, Kathleen	Waswanipi	Algonquin College	Legal Assistant
Morrison, Everett Levi	Waskaganish	Cambrian College	Music
Moses, Derek	Eastmain	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Murdoch (Atysnia), Colleen	Wemindji	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Murdoch, Donny	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Marine & Small Engines
Namagoose, Winnifred	M.F.	Northern College (JABEC)	G.A.S.
Natawapineskum, Alexandra	Wemindji	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Neeposh, Reggie	Ouje-bougoumou	Canadore College	Business Accounting
Nicholls, Donald	Mistissini	The University of Arizona	Masters in Law
Orr, Linda	Nemaska	Algonquin College	Small Business Management
Orr, Margaret	Chisasibi	En'owkin Centre	Certificate of Indigenous Pol.Dev.
Ortepi, Nicholas	Waswanipi	Canadore College	Chef Training
Otter, Marian	Waswanipi	University of Regina	B. Ed. Visual Arts
Pepabano, Leanne	Chisasibi	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Pepabano, Tommy	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Marine & Small Engines
Petagumskum, Mina	Whapmagoostui	Canadore College	Correctional Worker
Petawabano, Robie	Mistissini	Cegep John Abbott College	Police Technology
Petawabano, Sharon	Mistissini	Cegep Heritage	Business Administration
Quinn, Jacqueline	Mistissini	Bishop's University	B.A. Education
Rabbitskin, Helen	Mistissini	Riverside Park Technology Center	Butchery; Professional Cooking
Rabbitskin, Rita	Mistissini	Laurentide Aviation	Pilot Training
Rondeau, Albert	Chisasibi	Bishop's University	B.B.A. Management Science & Info. Systems
Ruperthouse, Sylvie	Abitibi	Centre form prof. De Val d'Or	Dessin de bâtiment
Sam-Chakapash, Bernice	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Office Systems
Scipio, Betsy	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Office Administration General
Shari, Martha	Ouje-bougoumou	University of Ottawa	B.A. Economics
Shashaweskum, Diana	Wemindji	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Aboriginal Studies
Shecapio, Lorraine	Mistissini	College Herzing	Microcomputer & Networking
Shecapio, Robert	Mistissini	Canadore College	Pre Technology
Shecapio-Blacksmith, Angela	Ouje-bougoumou	Centre d'enseig. Et de form.prof.d'alma	Landscaping
Shecapio-Blacksmith, Darlene	Ouje-bougoumou	Canadore College	G.A.S.
Shem, Harriet	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Office Systems
Shem, Mary	Whapmagoostui	University of British Columbia	M. Ed.
Sheshamush, Josephine	Whapmagoostui	York University	B.A. Political Science
Snowboy, Mary Louise	Chisasibi	Herzing College	Auto Office Professional
Spencer, Ronald	Chisasibi	Lakehead University	Mechanical Eng. Diploma
Stewart, Dorothy	Wemindji	York University	B.A. History
Tapiatic, Joel	Chisasibi	Algonquin College	Furniture Technician
Tetreault, Chantale	Waswanipi	Concordia University	B.A. Human Environment
Tetreault, Nora	Waswanipi	Universite du Quebec/Montreal	Sciences Comptables
Tomatuk, Lesie	Wemindji	Sir Sandford Fleming	Law & Security
Trapper, Mary	Mistissini	Algonquin College	G.A.S. Certificate
Voyageur, Sharon	Mistissini	Cegep Heritage	Office Systems Technology
Wapachee, Faith	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Native Social Service Worker
Wapachee, Gerard	Waswanipi	E.M.O.I.C.Q.	Plâtrage
Wapachee-Petawabano, Susan	Mistissini	University of Ottawa	B.A. General
Washipabano, Willard	Chisasibi	Canadore College	Heavy Duty Mechanic
Weapenicappo, Victor	Eastmain	Northern College	Social Work, Drug & Alcohol Counsellor
Weistche, Sasha	Waskaganish	Canadore College	Pre Technology
White, Daniel	Mistissini	George Brown College	Culinary Management, Baking, Cake Décor.
Wootton, Kathleen	Mistissini	McGill University	M. Ed.

G.C.C.E.A

C.R.A.
A.R.C.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Elections for the offices of Grand Chief / Chairman
and Deputy-Grand Chief / Vice-Chairman of the Grand Council of the Crees Eeyou Istchee
and Cree Regional Authority.

FINAL LIST CANDIDATES

Grand Chief / Chairman

Ted Moses
Matthew Mukash

Deputy-Grand Chief / Vice Chairman

Paul Gull
Alfred Loon
Kenny Loon
Losty Mamianskum
William E. Nicholls

Elections: **Wednesday, August 28th, 2002**
Polling Hours – 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Advance Polls: **Wednesday, August 21st, 2002**
Polling Hours – 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

The qualifications for eligibility to vote in the elections are as follows:

a) To be a Cree beneficiary in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
b) To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on August 28th 2002).
c) Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

Chief Electoral Officer – John Henry Wapachee
Tel.: (819) 673-2600 / Fax: (819) 673-2606
E-Mail: jhwapachee@hotmail.com

Voting Stations:

Mistissini	Wemindji	Waswanipi	Chibougamau
Chisasibi	Waskaganish	Whapmagoostui	
Nemaska	Eastmain	Ouje-Bougoumou	
Ottawa	Val d'Or	Washaw Sibi Eeyou Office-Amos	
Senneterre	Montreal	North Bay	

*There may be additional polling stations added to the list to facilitate voters' access if neccessary.

the Dog's Ear

by Will Nicholls

The White Man's Gonna Getcha
The Colonial Challenge to the Crees of Quebec
By Toby Morantz
McGill-Queen's University Press 2002

Wow, double wow! This book is cool, especially if you are a Cree or want to know more about the history of the eastern James Bay Cree. It is essentially a look into the Cree culture and the changes to it from contact onwards. It is dry at times -- you expect that from an academic work -- but the amount of information in it is astounding.

This is perhaps the closest Cree students will ever come to a real history in our generation.
Yes, it is written by a non-Native with cultural biases (though she does rise above them most of the time) but she is faithful to the truth and times and will even tell you when some parts are biased.
At the very least Crees today should read to see what the starvation years were all about and why they happened. I've heard the starvation stories but I never understood the causes before.
It also talks about the voluntary nature of Cree hunters and trappers listening to the game wardens. My grandfather Emmett MacLeod is mentioned in this book as one.
Many other names are mentioned and I think every Cree will be able to point to at least one relative talked about.
This book also talks about the influences of the HBC, the independent fur traders, the missionaries of both the Catholic and Anglican Churches, the military, the RCMP and the Indian Agents.
In short just about anybody who would have had contact with the Cree. It is a book that will proudly rest on my library shelf both as an outstanding piece of literature and as a resource/reference book. After reading this book I immediately phone McGill to request a copy to give away. This is how important I think this book is.
So if you would like a copy drop me a line me on either what types of books you read (native, sci-fi, mystery, spy, bio's, romance, non-fiction, etc.) or suggestions for books to be reviewed. Send it attn: *Dog's Ear* by fax to: 514-278-9914, email: nation@beesum.ca or mail to:
the Nation Attn; Dog's Ear
5505 St. Laurent Suite 3018
Montreal, Quebec
H2T 1S6

Blue Gold
by Maude Barlow & Tony Clarke
Stoddard Press 2002

Good Lord, this book is so scary it makes Stephen King seem like Mr. Dress-up on valium. The scariest part about it is that it all true and it concerns the coming water crisis and, yes, water wars in the near future.
Water or blue gold is 80 per cent of our bodies and it is deemed as a "necessity of life," not "essential." What this difference in terminology means is that corporations can sell it at what the market will bear. We all see what that is these days. A litre of water costs more than a litre of gas.
Corporations are drooling at the profit potential as our planet's clean drinkable water supply diminishes.
One of the reasons for this is that the supply of drinkable water is drying up or becoming too polluted to drink. The horror stories in this book will make you think and wonder how the hell we, as a species, could all be so stupid and shortsighted. It talks about the proof that northern Africa used to be a paradise of flora and fauna until the agricultural peoples came in and didn't really look at what they were doing. The result is the Sahara desert. It seems we are now doing this all over the planet and it is just a matter of time for us and the planet.
We can expect wars over water, the book tells us. And, just to make you feel safe, Canada holds 20 per cent of the world's drinkable water supply. Only half of that water is renewable.
The example they use in the book is one that David Suzuki came up with. You have a pond and on the first day you have one lily pad on it. The second day you have two and the third you have four and so on until by day 60 the pond is covered with lily pads. When it is covered it will begin to die as no sun can get through to help algae and other plants oxegenate the water. The fish die and eventually so does the entire pond ecosystem.
You will never notice the problem because since the lily pads double each time by day 59 only half of the pond will be covered with lily pads.
The book tells us as far as water is concerned we are at day 59. Read and educate yourself on one of mankind's greatest challenges in the next fifty years. The signs are already there for anyone to see.
For those of you interested in finding out more, check out Blue Planet Project on the internet.

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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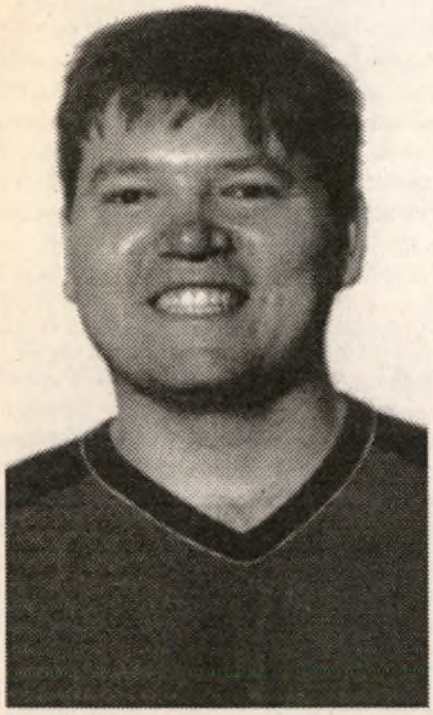
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of the Health and Social Services of James Bay is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Abel S. Kitchen to the position of Executive Director effective August 5, 2002.

Mr. Kitchen held numerous positions within the Cree communities. He has been President of the First People's Business Association, President and Member of the Board of Directors of the Waswanipi Development Corporation, President of Cree Energy and Chairperson of the Cree Regional Authority just to name a few.

A recent graduate of the Social Work Program at Laurentian University, Mr. Kitchen has extensive knowledge of the Cree culture and brings with him valuable experience and abilities in maintaining viable relationships within the Cree communities and in the identification of the special needs of the Crees and of the Cree Communities.

The Cree Board of the Health and Social Services of James Bay welcomes Mr. Kitchen to its organization and wishes him the very best in his new position. Mr. Kitchen may be reached at (819) 855 2844



Unfortunately, due to travel and a number of unforeseen events, it was not possible for me to meet the deadline for the upcoming Grand Council elections. The nomination was an honour and the election an opportunity to platform issues for a better and stronger Cree Nation. Issues such as economic development in Eeyou Istchee should choose methods that will maximize the number of Cree jobs; otherwise, the development does little to help counter unemployment or stimulate the Cree economy. Leadership should reflect the voice of all the Cree Nation; therefore, Cree Youth, Women's and Elders organizations should have a role in Cree government that goes beyond merely participating in community or regional elections. While economic growth is important, there are other areas that our leadership should devote time to - namely, social problems that affect our families and communities. Currently there are groups and individuals doing good work trying to address issues of substance abuse, domestic violence, and other social problems in our communities; however, it will take a united effort with the participation of our Leaders to affect significant change. Finally, it is through incorporating our traditional strengths and culture that we will emerge stronger, not by adopting other perspectives to run the Cree Nation. Meegwetch.

Donald Nicholls

7th Friendship Golf Tournament

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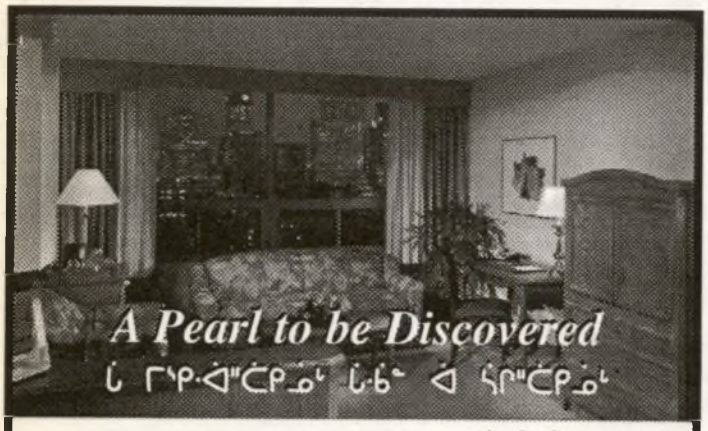
Information:
Louise Wapachee / Suzanne Kitchen
Tel.: 748-7667 Fax: 748-6954
Rob Imrie Tel.: 745-2099



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The urge to travel

Xavier Kataquapit

Travelling has always been a part of my life for as far back as I can remember. As a young boy growing up in Attawapiskat along the James Bay coast, my family always thought it was natural to be able to move from our community to other areas far away from home.

During the wintertime, it was an adventure to travel the 300 kilometres south to Moosonee and Moose Factory over a frozen highway. This was our temporary connection to the rest of the world for a few months of the year. Our family had a small business that we had to keep supplied with equipment and fuel, so to keep our costs down we ventured to Moosonee on the winter road to haul back supplies. Our tractor and truck made this journey during the coldest times of the year to transport these supplies.

In the spring it was not a big deal to travel one or two hundred kilometres north or south along the coast to find the best goose hunting areas. This was done using snow machines during a time when the snow was melting. Of course over the winter we used snow machines to visit other nearby communities like Kashechewan and Fort Albany.

In the summer or fall we used freighter canoes to head out to hunt or fish on the rivers and the great James Bay. In fact we would visit the same areas that we had gone to by snowmobile in the winter but at a different season by boat.

Even before motorized transportation like snowmobiles or outboard engines my people, the Cree moved great distances over the land along the James Bay coast. Elders from my community have many stories of travelling long distances to go to traditional hunting grounds just by walking over the muskeg and tundra in the summer, spring or fall or in the winter time with the help of snowshoes and moccasins over the snow. Dogsleds were also another mode of transportation that helped my people move over the frozen landscape during the coldest times of the year. By the 1970s most of the dog sled teams had been retired in favour of the snow machine. Forty years ago, during the warmest months my people used small canoes that were paddled or fitted with light sails to move along the water.

Moving from one location to another was a way of survival that was necessary for my people. If people stayed in one area for too long then animals and fish that kept everyone alive would decline due to overhunting and fishing. If people inhabited an area for too long they would also use up the trees and cause a shortage of good firewood.

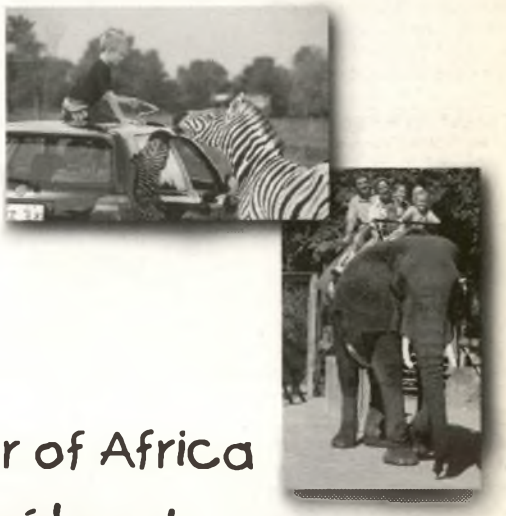
Having the freedom to move from one place to another has always been a part of me. Now that I spend my time down south away from my community I still have an urge to travel to new places. I carry the same skills and enthusiasm for travelling as I did when I made trips with my family by freighter canoe or snowmobile to remote places. A lot of the skills I learned had to do with being able to survive without outside help during the duration of a trip. My brothers and I also had to learn to be resourceful and be able to fix or maintain machines or other equipment while we were out on our own.

I continue to learn new skills in travelling. When I began to make new journeys to large cities and towns in the south one of the greatest skills I picked up was being able to handle and manage my finances. Money is the greatest survival tool for travelling that I had to learn to use here in the south. I also had to learn how to move at fast speeds in a vehicle with hundreds of other people on multilane highways.

I feel best when I know I will be travelling somewhere new in the future. For me, there is no better feeling than having the freedom to be able to ride away on a freighter canoe, drive off on a snow machine, move down the road in a car or on a motorcycle or fly away to a new part of the world. I guess I will always have the urge to move in my blood.

... Vote ...

Parc SAFARI 30th anniversary



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100 – Births

First of all, Congratulations to Auntie Tanya and Barry Blackned on the birth of our new baby cousin Laython Thomas Lee Blackned born on July 9th 2002 @ 3:07 pm, weighing 10 lbs. and 6 oz. Can't wait until we are a little grown up so we can shoot, score and save. Mommy is real happy that she has a nephew that is so adorable as you are. Hugs and kisses from us, Lance and Lylas Hester and let's not forget our Mommy too.

101 – Birthdays

I would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to my precious grand-daughter Trudy-Rical Audrey Longchap-Mianscum. On June 7th 2002. May your day be special as you are. Love always, Grandma & Grandpa Longchap.

Wishing a Happy Belated Birthday to our nephews Patrick Loon on July 29th, Grayson Loon on July 11th and to our brother Alfred Loon on July 26th. Hope you guys had fun. With love & hugs. Mary & Deborah

Wishing a happy birthday to my friend Cindy Spencer on Aug.4th, my mother Queenie Louttit on Aug.8th, my friend Veronica Longchap on Aug.13th, my grandma Margaret Louttit on Aug.23rd, my friend Cindy Cookish on Aug.25th. Also to my bro Adrian Petawabano on Aug.29th. Many more to come!!!! From Julianna

We would like to wish our daughter who will be turning two on August 8th, 2002 a Happy Birthday. Her name is Jade Angel Karen. How time flies. We just wanted you to know how much you mean to us. You are our whole world. Everyday is true happiness. Words cannot express how we truly feel. But one thing for sure, know that we love you so much and we will always be there for you. I thank our creator for giving us a beautiful, healthy baby. Know also that everybody around loves and cares about you. Love always Mommy and Daddy.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to a good friend of mine in Mistissini; Pauline Matoush, on August 10th. She'll be turning 18. Hey there shorty, now that you're an adult you won't have any problem going in bars, especially your favorite one where there's strippers, Cabarrêt, just joking. And you won't be asking people around to buy your beer/liquor, well that's if you don't forget your ID with a picture on it. Don't party too much without me aight, oh it's true I can't tell you what to do since you're an adult now. When I get released (you know what I mean) that's when we'll party together aight. Take care shorty and hope to see you soon. Once again, I wish you a Happy Birthday and may your wishes come true and many more. PS: Get yourself a boyfriend too, aight. From your buddy, Karen Shecapio-Blacksmith.

A birthday Greeting going out to my Joomshom. His name is William Moar. He will be celebrating his Birthday on Aug 2,2002. Hey!!Your Birthday is on Friday....That's too bad you can't party cause your old enough(HA!HA!) Once Again Happy Birthday Joomshom..... I hope you enjoy your special day.... Love Always:Your Grand-daughter Brandy Tina Angel Wapachee (YOUR BOUJOUYANSHISH)

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to my Kookum Linda Moar on September 3,2002. And i also wanted to THANK-YOU for taking care of me while my mommy and daddy are at work during the day....I'll buy you a birthday present for your birthday and for taking care of me...You name what you would like and i'll just buy it...OKAY!!! Well HAPPY BIRTHDAY KOOKUM !!!!! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH.... Love Always: Your Grand-Daughter Brandy Tina Angel Wapachee (Nii ABOUJOUYANSHISH).

God made a wonderful mother, He made her smile of the sunshine, And He molded her heart of pure gold; In her eyes He placed bright shining stars, In her cheeks fair roses you see; God made a wonderful mother, And He gave that dear mother to me. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to my mom Emily on Aug. 1st /2002. I love you! From: daughter April (Nem.)

Another year has come Buddy! Wishing you a Happy ?? Birthday to one of my best friend Linda M. on July 30th, another year older and another ???? (I'll tell you what's says on the blank or try to guess). From friend Judy. PS: Hope you enjoyed your gift.

We would like to wish our pimp Clarissa Blackned a prosperous birthday on August 12th. You're now 16 (bittersweet) We hope you have a berry good year, our love:P. You're our friend and we appreciate your genuine personnality. You're a chic we'll never forget and always have time for. The road to a friend's house is never very long, better believe it. You Clarissa faye feed our souls with courage and honesty. The stillness of your character brings us compassion towards life. Face it you're stuck withus ! Sincerely, your)...

102 – Weddings

I would like to say Congratulations to my friend June Matches & Rusty Ottereyes on their wedding on June 26th 2002. I'm sorry I couldn't be there on your wedding day, I heard it was a beautiful wedding. From Veronica Pachano.

We would like to say Congratulations to our friends Paula Napash & Christopher Swallow on their wedding on July 19th 2002. You finally tied the knot. Take care of each other. Best wishes from; Brad, Veronica and Arianne.

103 – Anniversaries

I would like to say happy belated 14th Anniversary to my brother Donald & my sister-in-law Natalie Matoush on July 22,02.Why the go guys keep it up. And god bless you all and your daughter....oxoxoxox love you all and we miss you alot!!!!!!!!! Fr: your sister & brother-in-law to be.

Happy 21st Anniversary to Steven & Emily on Aug. 18 /02. When I think of all the things you do, the ways in which you care, I'm filled with a sense of gratitude and pride that is always there. I seldom take the time to tell you that I'm happy you're my mom and dad. I love you both with all my heart! From: April.

104 – Graduations

Congratulations to Bradley W. Georgekish for completing his studies at Ecole Nationale de Police du Québec in Nicolet, QC on June 28th 2002. I'm so proud of you. You've reached your goal! I love you so much. From Love always: Veronica Pachano.

I would like to say Congratulations to my Daddy, Bradley W. Georgekish for his graduation on June 28th 2002 at Ecole Nationale du Québec in Nicolet, QC I love you. From love, Arianne Pachano.

300 – Personals

I would like to send this out to the man I love but he doesn't know it yet. I still remember the moment I first saw you, it was about a year ago during a tournament. I was sitting on the bleachers watching you skillfully play floor hockey....oh! How you looked so good!. I wanted to get to know you so bad but I found out you had a girlfriend (which broke my heart) but still I didn't let that get in my way lol! because I knew you liked me too by saying "Ouch!" every time I'd walk by and I'd slowly look back to give you the "I want you too" look. So we finally got introduced and sparks flew but we didn't last long because the tournament ended. You came to visit me once for a couple of weeks

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Québec

On prépare l'avenir

but that wasn't enough because our phone bills went through the roof!. We had a good time (I'm sure you agree) but being apart was hard for us because we went looking for affection on other places which was what tore us part so I'm admitting to you that I made a mistake and I'm hoping you feel the same way? I came to visit you and all of my friends not to long ago. I stayed for a week when I was only supposed to spend a few nights. I chose to stay because I was trying to win your heart back but you were too caught up with another girlfriend. I don't know how many times I'd wait for you to come over but in the end you never showed up, I cried my eyes out and sadly went out to drown it with a bottle. I spoke to so many people about you. I told them how I loved you and wanted you back, I think they kind of got tired of it after awhile lol!. I guess I finally realized what I had lost and I'll do anything you want (anything reasonable) to get you back. I'm sure your thinking something like "it didn't work the first time so why should it work this time?" well my response to that is WE'LL MAKE IT WORK!.I know you still care for me because of the way we last kissed. I promise that I'll never hurt you (unless you deserve it and I'm sure you're thinking the same) and forever love you, you'll always be loved by my heart. So get rid of her and come to me because I'm the only one that's willing to be anything and everything you've ever needed and wanted!. Forever in luv with you Your Ex. p.s. I hope you make the right choice because I'm coming for the answer in a few months...see you then!.

We would like to say "hi" and" miss ya" to our friends in Wask. Their names are Tyrone.m., Alex.m., Kurtis.b., Jordan.b., Randall.b., Patrick.w., Barney.w., Darren.m., Darren.w., Shane.w., Joshua.r., Gregory.m., Russel.s.....hey! guys, remember when u use to chase us around during tournaments?? lol, Pat, Kurt, Jordy, Barney, Darren.w., we still think about those happy, funny times we spend, we wish we could do that again when there's a tournament in Wask. lol.. If u guys want too!! It doesn't matter if we're old.....(sorry 4 those who we forgot) YOU GUYS KNOW WE'RE CRAZY OVER U!!!AND WE NEED U!! We hope u guys don't forget our FRIENDSHIP, cuz it really means so much to us! call us!! cuz we haven't heard from y'all lately.....:) bye friends....from the CoYoTeS everybody knows the *~*~CHAMPS~*~* p.s we'll tell u who we are...soon!

I would like to say a few words to lil'coop, hey how have u been? So, I'm writing this! When u told me write to me! So here it is....how can i put this i really really really really really like u!!lol.. Now I'll be embarrassed when u talk to me or if we see each other face2face!! Well just wanted to tell u that!! take care:) bye!

500 – Miscellenious

LODGING – Guest & Meeting Facilities Kahnawake (15 min. Montreal). Telephone, kitchen, dining room, bath/jacuzzi, parking, $50. Base rate. 514-894-6035 / professional@attcanada.ca

Get the facts
on the proposed
Governance legislation
• this legislation is not about Aboriginal and treaty rights or the inherent right to self-government
• it's about the contribution you can make to your community
• it's about progressive change
• it's about opportunities
• it's about improving your quality of life
• it's a foundation for the future
See for yourself.
For your copy of the proposed legislation and an information package on Parliament's review of the Bill, call 1-800-550-1540, send an e-mail to Governance@inac.gc.ca or visit our Web site at www.fng-gpn.gc.ca
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada
Canada

Air Creebec

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567
Or visit our website at: www.aircreebec.ca

A Health Bulletin
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The Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay

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Miiyuunakitihwaaiimiisu

Everyone has to be concerned about HIV.

Knowing your HIV status is an important step in obtaining appropriate medical interventions and in preventing the spread of HIV in our Cree communities.

Why should I be tested for HIV? Who should be tested?

Counseling with possible testing for early diagnosis of HIV infection is recommended for anyone who:

- Considers themselves at risk for infection
- Is pregnant
- Has unprotected sex with men or women
- Has had multiple sex partners
- Is a spouse or sex partner of an injection drug user
- Engages in risky behavior by abusing alcohol or drugs
- Shares or uses unclean needles when injecting drugs
- Has had a sexually transmitted disease
- Has been sexually abused

Why does the Cree Health Board recommend that all pregnant women be tested for HIV?

There are medical therapies available that lower the chance that a pregnant woman infected with HIV passes it on to her infant before and during birth.

Where can I get tested for HIV?

You can take the test in your community Health Center. There are also anonymous testing clinics available throughout the province. Some Native Friendship Centres have resource people who can assist you. Or, for details of the nearest anonymous screening center, call 1-866-521-7432.

Should a person wait for symptoms before getting tested?

No. People who are concerned that they may have been infected with HIV should seek counseling and testing as soon as possible. If HIV infection is detected early, medical help may be sought sooner and this can help people stay healthier longer.

How long does it take to get results?

It may take about 4 weeks to get results from the most commonly used HIV antibody-screening test.

Is the test accurate?

These tests are more than 99% accurate. However, this test detects antibodies your body produces against HIV rather than the virus itself. The test may be negative when a person first becomes infected. In this case, you could repeat the test after waiting 3 to 6 months.

Testing
should never
take the place
of prevention.

Dr. Robert Carlin
Infectious Diseases Coordinator
Public Health Department - CBHSSJB

George L. Diamond
Health Promotion Officer
Public Health Department - CBHSSJB